India by 6% on all routes between 1st April, 1994 and July, 1994 except for the INDIA/ USA, CANADA route, on which the increase has been

(i) VIA PACIFIC : 20% from 1.4.94

(ii) VIA ATLANTIC : 5% to 7.5% from 1.4.94

Air India has no proposal to narrow down the difference between "J" Class and "Y" class normal fares. At present the "J" Class International fares throughout the world are generally at 115% of "Y" Class normal fares.

On the domestic sectors, Air India follows the fare levels charged by Indian Airlines.

The reasons for increase in International Airfares are as under:—

(1) Increase in the cost of operation which inter alia would include cost of landing parking, navigational fees, handling charges, cost of fuel etc.

(2) Currency devaluation.

(3) Need to remove directional imbalance in international fares.

(4) To adjust fare level so as to remove fare disparities and anamolies.

INDIAN AIRLINES

Indian Airlines has increased its Rupee fares for domestic travel from 10% to 20% with effect from 25th July, 1994. The fare differential between "Y" class and "J" class has been maintained.

The reason for increasing the fares was due to all round increase in the cost of operations. The fare increase was done in order to partially offset the increase in the cost of operations.

(c) With effect from 1st August, 1994, the slabwise cancellation charges have been removed by Indian Airlines and passengers can cancel their booking upto one hour before the scheduled departure of the flight. A refund fee of Rs. 100/-will be levied in case of refund or reissuance of domestic tickets. Indian Airlines has also provided 50% discount to senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years, subject to stay at the destination for a minimum of seven days.

Discount to senior citizens and abolition of cancellation charges in IA

3105. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines have decided to provide a 50% discount to senior citizens and also to abolish cancellation charges on domestic travel;

(b) if so, what is the age limit for availing of the discount;

(c) whether there are any conditions for the non-application of the cancellation charges; and

(d) from what date the above proposals will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir:

(b) 50% discount is available to the senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years and above.

(c) No cancellation charges are levied on Rupee Fare tickets for domestic services, when cancellation is done upto one hour before the scheduled flight departure. A refund fee of Rs. 100/- is levied in lieu of cancellation charges in case of refund or reissuance.

(d) The proposals took effect from 1st August, 1994.

ITDC tie-up with Ramada Inn Group

3106. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India Tourism Development Corporation is planning to tie-up with the global hotel chain, the Ramada Inn Group, for marketing its hotels abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) ITDC is exploring possibilities of marketing tie-ups with internationally reputed hotel chains including Ramada Inn Group for its ELITE hotels.